

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify the features of the management object process unit and program process of the present invention whereby items of attribute data are provided for the management objects and each of the attribute data items includes at least one of: (i) a collection time required for collecting a corresponding management object, (ii) an access frequency of a collection request for the corresponding management object, and (iii) a value change frequency of the corresponding management object. (See FIGS. 5, 13, and 17.)

In addition, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify that the collection time is for comparison with a reference collection time, the access frequency is for comparison with a reference access frequency, and the value change frequency is for comparison with a reference value change frequency, and that each of the items of classification data is determined by a result of comparison.

And still further, dependent claims 5-9 and 14-18 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claims 1 and 10 and/or to make some minor grammatical improvements.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 5,822,535 ("Takase et al") and USP 5,845,080 ("Hamada et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 10, items of attribute data are provided for the management objects and each of the attribute data items includes at least one of: (i) a collection time required for collecting a corresponding management object, (ii) an access frequency of a collection request for the corresponding management object, and (iii) a value change frequency of the corresponding management object. In other words, each of the classification data items is determined according to the at least one of the collection time, the access frequency, and the value change frequency of the attribute data item for a corresponding management object. (See FIGS. 6, 14, and 18). And only the management objects classified as a specific type by the

classification data are collected in advance from the managed device and stored in the memory section. Therefore, the total collection time is shortened compared with the case where the management objects of a type other than the specific type are collected in advance in addition to the management objects of the specific type. Accordingly, collection of the management objects to be stored in advance in the memory section can be easily completed within the period during which the managed device is not busy. In addition, in the case where collection of a management object of the specific type is requested and this management object is stored in the memory section, such management object is retrieved from the memory section and transmitted as a response. Accordingly, network traffic can be prevented from increasing due to repetition of the collection request for this management object.

Thus, according to the claimed present invention, management objects of the specific type are selected for a quick response to the collection request, and it is also possible to change the selection by updating the collection time, the access frequency, and the value change frequency to reflect collections of the management objects actually performed.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Takase et al does not disclose attribute data that includes at least one

of the collection time, the access frequency, and the value change frequency described above. In Takase et al, a management node 100 transmits requests for correcting data of attribute values to managed nodes 301, 302, 303 via a network 200. These attribute values correspond to the management objects of the present invention. The collection request includes a collection interval, collection numbers, and allowable response time, and each of the managed nodes 301, 302, 303 collects attribute values upon receipt of the collection request. (See column 16 of Takase et al.) That is, each of the managed nodes 301, 302, 303 collects data of attribute values based on a collection interval, collection numbers, and allowable response time included in the collection request. However, this reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the claimed present invention whereby the management objects are classified by classification data items each determined according to at least one of the collection time, the access frequency, and the value change frequency of the attribute data item for a corresponding management object.

Hamada et al, moreover, merely teaches classifying management information (MO) into attribute classes A to D according to physical characteristics and the necessity for a cache coherency. The attribute class A is for MO attributes in

which incoherency of the cache is temporarily permitted, the attribute class B is for MO attributes requiring exact coherency, the attribute class C is fixed during the lifetime of MO generated using a command of CMIP, and the attribute class D is for MO attributes which are not likely to be read after setting the values thereof. (See column 5 of Hamada et al.) In Hamada et al, the MO of attribute classes A to C are located in the cache (since all the MO to be accessed should be located in the cache). And in Hamada et al, the MO are classified based on parameters other than the collection time, the access frequency, and the value change frequency, so that the total collection time could not be shortened even if the teachings of Hamada et al were introduced into the system of Takase et al.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 10, as well as each of claims 5-9 and 14-18 respectively depending therefrom, patentably distinguishes over the teachings of Takase et al and Hamada et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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Response to Office Action

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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